2 1 + 3 -7 + 5 -7 8 -1 5 -0 3 2.42160 C2

Attorney Docket: 381NP.42160C2

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

SOSHIRO KUSUNUKI ET AL.

RECEIVED

Serial No.:

09/866,939

Group Art Unit:

AUG 1 1 2003

Filed:

MAY 30, 2001

Examiner:

Technology Center 2100

Title:

INFORMATION PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

English abstracts of the Japanese Patent document and article are submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

August 8, 2003

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